

Head's Up!

Issue#2

Stafford Manor
High School

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Dear Parents and Friends of Stafford Manor,

Welcome to our second edition of Head's Up! As you can see our Eco club led by Mr Harrison have been getting local recognition for their efforts and the great work they are doing to keep the school tidy and to improve our sustainability. Mr Harrison has been working with the group to develop and improve our awareness of recycling and also in saving energy costs. In addition, regular litter picks are having a really positive impact on school environment.

Engagement from families at Parents' Evenings this term rose from 64% attendance at Y11 Parents' Evening, to 73% attendance at our recent Year 7 Evening. The Year 9 Options Evening saw attendance further rise to 85%. Thanks to all families for engaging with these events and to the wonderful staff here for ensuring that more parents continue to engage with opportunities to talk about their children's progress in school.

Please do like and follow our [Facebook page](#), as this will ensure you get access to regular weekly updates about what is happening in school.

Please be aware that we have a non school uniform day on Friday 22 March. We are asking for a £1 donation from students to be able to attend in non school uniform and this will be shared between funds for the library and comic relief.

Please see a link to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) from Staffordshire County Council on page 3 of this edition which I am hopeful that some of our students will consider engaging with this.

Huge congratulations to the top 5 achievers from last week. The 25 students below have all had Headteacher's certificates and chocolate (well it is easter soon).

Tune in next week for another Head's Up and enjoy the weekend when it comes.

Rhys Adams

Headteacher

Headteacher's Award for this week

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Harvey-Lee Hammond-Browne	Kaelan Ismail	Eloise Gates	Lexi Lewis	Michalina Labno
Casey Parker	Jasmine Kumar	Isabel Masters	Stephanie Manning	Leah Thomas-Finlayson
Arly Penlington-Stopka	Krystal McMeel	William Weston	Isobel Sargeant	Jessica Manning
Faith White-Stones	George Elliott	Hadyn Anthony	Kaore Brooks	Paige Key
Phoebe Brown	MacKenzie Dickson	Oana Chirca	Tyler Colebatch	Kian Taylor-Hall

SMHS Eco Club

In October 2023 the eco-club starting meeting on Monday afternoon. The main goal of the Eco-Club is to make Stafford Manor High School a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable place to be.

We have a number of projects running at the moment. Firstly recycling all waste paper which is collected from classrooms on a Friday morning and placed into paper recycling bins. Secondly students are involved in litter picks throughout the school on Monday afternoons. Thirdly energy used around the school – students encourage teachers to turn off projectors when not in use, turn off lights when they leave the classroom and various other methods at saving energy.

Moving forward the eco-club would like to encourage all students to move away from single use plastic, mainly through the use of water bottles which can be refilled in the canteen during break and lunch.

Our long term goal is to re-establish the garden on the school property. Hopefully the garden we produce fruit and vegetables which will be made available to students during lunch times once they have been harvested. The garden has a small greenhouse that we are hoping to install a hydroponics growing system which would allow some plant to grow all year round.

The number of students involved in the various projects around school has steadily increased from a handful of dedicated students to well over 20 currently. Hopefully this trend will continue, it is not a requirement that every student attend on a Monday afternoon but rather that they show a willingness to work towards a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable future at Stafford Manor High School and the surrounding community.

Litter pickers ready for big spring clean

LITTER pickers in the Stafford area are preparing to join this year's Great British Spring Clean.

The nationwide event organised by the charity Keep Britain Tidy is now in its ninth year and runs between 15th and 31st March. Community groups, parish councils, schools, families and individuals are all due to take part in a huge effort to clear litter and rubbish from the nation's towns, cities and countryside.

The facts and figures surrounding litter in Britain are staggering. Almost 48% of people in this country admit to dropping rubbish and the amount discarded each year has increased by 500% since the 1960s. Seven out of every 10 items of litter are food

packaging and wrappers. The financial costs of clearing up this deluge of rubbish are similarly astronomical. Stafford Borough Council for example currently spend £1 million on litter clearance annually. Aside from the financial ramifications, litter is devastating and often fatal for wildlife. Small animals can become trapped inside bottles and birds frequently get entangled in plastic packaging and other items of waste including discarded fishing line.

Marine litter is also an ongoing major issue. It has been estimated that 100,000 marine mammals and reptiles such as dolphins, whales, turtles and seals are killed and injured throughout the world by litter every year in our seas



and oceans. Nearer to home local litter pickers were active throughout the previous year and collected well over two tonnes of rubbish. Villages and schools in the area joined the tidy up. Stafford Litter Heroes gave the Eco Club at Stafford Manor High School a quantity of litter pickers and litter hoops. Teacher Duncan Harrison, leader of the Club said: "We are aiming to develop a clean and appealing environment for students, staff and wildlife. Our

new equipment will enable us to do regular litter picks within the school grounds and hopefully beyond, helping to develop biodiversity and protect wildlife.

"We have already begun to overhaul the school vegetable gardens and intend to expand our activities from there."

Stafford Litter Heroes can be contacted at: staffordlitterheroes@gmail.com or via their Facebook page.

[SMHS Facebook Page](#)

We have a recently launched SMHS Facebook page. Please like and follow us on Facebook as we will also be using this to keep parents informed of forthcoming events etc. The link is here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554943252079>

SMHS Community Support Hub

Open weekly – Wednesday 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. and Friday 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Please come along to the Community Support Hub if you need ANY support with anything, our staff will be happy to help.

Year 8 Football

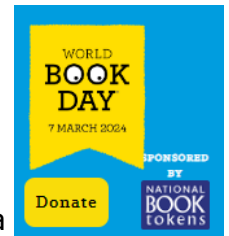
Year 8 football team managed to beat Blessed William Howard Catholic High School 2-0 and are through to Quarter Final match against Kin Edward VI High School. Well done to all students who took part in this football match.

Year 9 Choices Evening

We were delighted to see so many parents at our Year 9 Choices Evening on Thursday 14 March.

Non School Uniform Day – Friday 22 March 2024

There will be a non-school uniform day where students can choose to wear a costume from their favourite book or come in their own clothes – Will we guess what book you are from? Will YOU guess what books the staff are from? Prizes for best costumes. It will be a £1 donation on the school gate and money raised will be split between the school library and Comic Relief.



World Book Day provides a wonderful opportunity to instil in our students, a lifelong passion for books and reading. Through our World Book Day celebrations, we aim to highlight the importance of books in enhancing literacy skills, expanding vocabulary and, nurturing creativity and imagination. It is a day where we collectively acknowledge the invaluable role that books play in our lives and the wider world.



Holiday Activities and Food

This project is run for some of our students and if your child is eligible, you should have already received information. If you haven't received this please check with the main office if you think you are eligible.

When does it start?

The Staffordshire HAF Programme will be run by different holiday clubs in your local area starting from **Monday 25 March until Friday 5 April 2024**. You can mix and match activities using different holiday clubs, or book with just one club.

What's on offer?

There are lots of different clubs to choose from in your area. Click the [link](#) to watch some of the clubs in action.

Performing Arts



Year 8 have been learning to play the recorder this term and they have learnt five songs using three different notes, which is a real achievement. Some students have even bought their own recorders to every lesson and have been practicing at home.

A few students have wanted to try the Tenor recorder which is a lot harder to play, so well done for trying something more challenging.

Year 7 will be learning to play the recorder after May half term, so if you wish to purchase a recorder for your child, then you can. Recorders cost £5.00



Year 8 and 9 will be learning to play the Ukele after Easter, which is very exciting and Mrs Mandley and Mr Johnson are looking forward to upskilling students on a brand new instrument.